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Message Text

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SUBJ: CURRENT TRENDS IN YUGOSLAV MEAT EXPORTS

REF : A) STATE 174737 B) BELGRADE 2687

SUMMARY: AS RESULT OF CURRENT EEC BAN ON BEEF IMPORTS AND EARLIER ITALIAN RESTRICTIONS, YUGOSLAV EXPORT OF FRESH AND FROZEN MEAT AND LIVE ANIMALS DECLINED FROM 87 MILLION DOLLARS IN FIRST HALF 1973 TO 54 MILLION DOLLARS IN FIRST HALF 1974, AND MORE SUBSTANTIAL DECLINE EXPECTED IN SECOND HALF. YUGOSLAV EFFORTS TO REDIRECT EXPORTS TO MIDDLE EAST AND SOVIET UNION HAVE BEEN ONLY PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY FOREIGN TRADE SECRETARIAT DATA MADE AVAILABLE TO US, YUGOSLAV EXPORTS OF FRESH AND FROZEN MEAT AND LIVE ANIMALS OVER FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1974 TOTALLED 839 MILLION DINARS - 54 MILLION DOLLARS AT CURRENT RATE OF EXCHANGE. EXPORTS IN COMPARABLE 1973 PERIOD AMOUNTED TO 1.39 BILLION DINARS - 87 MILLION DOLLARS, AT THEN PREVAILING RATE.

2. FIRST HALF 1974 QUANTITIES AND VALUE AS FOLLOWS:

PRODUCT	TONS	VALUE IN DINARS
LIVE CATTLE (ALL TO ITALY)	408	7,344,000

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LIVE SHEEP (ALL TO AUSTRIA)	88	135,805

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BABY BEEF (OF WHICH TO):	19,409	685,145,499	
ITALY	13,764	524,535,459	
SOVIET UNION	2,439	53,358,165	
FR GERMANY	2,195	68,318,172	
GREECE	475	14,942,829	
SWITZERLAND	322	14,795,735	
VEAL	2,146	95,926,680	
OF WHICH TO ITALY	2,130	95,197,244	
PORT (VIRTUALLY ALL TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA)	2,004	50,260,700	

3. IN FIRST HALF 1973, BULK OF YUGOSLAV SHIPMENTS WENT TO ITALY, INCLUDING 27,435 TONS OF BABY BEEF (VALUE: 1.07 BILLION DINARS) AND LIVE CATTEL VALUED AT 143 BILLION DINARS.

4. IN SPITE OF INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO DEVELOP SUBSTITUTE MARKETS, YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS EXPECT MEAT EXPORTS TO DECLINE EVEN MORE SUBSTANTIALLY IN SECON HALF OF YEAR IF EEC ADHERES TO DECISION TO BAN BEEF IMPORTS UNTIL NOVEMBER 1ST. AGREEMENT HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN CONCLUDED TO EXPORT 10,000 TONS OF BABY BEEF TO SOVIET UNION, BUT SOVIETS HAVE DECLINED TO PAY PREMIUM PRICES ORDINARILY OFFERED TO YUGOSLAVIA BY WESTERN EUROPEAN CUSTOMERS. NEGOTIATION ARE UNDER WAY FOR FURTHER SALES TO USSR AND FOR COMMENCING EXPORT TO IRAN, KUWAIT, LIBYA AND EGYPT, BUT SHORTAGE OF YUGOSLAV FACILITIES FOR PROCESSING, STORING, AND TRANSPORTING FROZEN MEAT ARE HAMPERING THIS EFFORT. MOREOVER, EEC REPORTEDLY COMPETING WITH YUGOSLAVS IN SALE OF MEAT TO USSR AND MIDDLE EAST.

5. EEC MEASURES HAVE SUBJECTED YUGOSLAV AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS TO SEVERE STRAIN. YUGOSLAVIA HAS STRONGLY PROTESTED THESE MEASURES IN BRUSSELS AND GENEVA, AND HAS INSTITUTED IMPORT RESTRICTIONS PRIMARILY AFFECTING PRODUCTS PURCHASED FROM EEC MEMBER COUNTRIES.

6. MORE DETAILED STATISTICS ON YUGOSLAV MEAT EXPORTS BEING SUBMITTED IN EMBASSY'S AUGUST 1974 AGRICULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS."
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